AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(Currently Amended)   A   method   for   adding   an   acoustic description of a word to a speech recognition lexicon, the method comprising:

converting the text of the word into at least one orthographically derived acoustic description of the word;

generating a score for an orthographically derived acoustic description based in part on a comparison between the orthographically derived acoustic description and a speech signal representing a user's pronunciation of the word;

identifying a speech-based acoustic description of the word and a score for the speech-based acoustic description from ~~decoding~~ the speech signal representing the user's pronunciation of the word ~~to produce a decoded acoustic description of the word and a score for the decoded acoustic description~~, wherein the speech-based acoustic description is not associated with the text of the word; and

selecting one of the orthographically derived acoustic description and the ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description as the acoustic description of the word based on the score for the orthographically derived acoustic description and the score for the ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description.

2.(Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein generating a score for an orthographically derived acoustic description comprises generating an acoustic model score.

3.(Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein ~~decoding the speech signal~~identifying a score for the speech-based acoustic description comprises generating an acoustic model score for at least one ~~decoded~~speech-based acoustic description and using the score as at least part of the score for the ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description.

4.(Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3 wherein generating an acoustic model score for the orthographically derived acoustic description and generating an acoustic model score for at least one ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description comprises using the same acoustic model to generate both acoustic model scores.

5.(Currently Amended)   The   method   of   claim   3   wherein identifying a score for the speech-based acoustic description ~~decoding the speech signal~~ further comprises generating a language model score for the at least one ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description and using the language model score as part of the score for the at least one ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description.

6.(Currently Amended)   The method of claim 5 wherein generating an acoustic model score and generating a language model score for at least one ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description comprises generating an acoustic model score and a language model score for a sequence of syllable-like units and wherein the ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description is derived from the sequence of syllable-like units.

7.(Currently Amended)   The method of claim 6 wherein deriving the ~~decoded~~ speech-based acoustic description from the sequence of syllable-like units comprises dividing the sequence of syllable-like units into a sequence of phonemes.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein generating a language model score comprises generating a language model score based on a trigram language model for syllable-like units.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein generating an acoustic model score for a sequence of syllable-like units comprises generating acoustic model scores for each of a sequence of phonemes that form the sequence of syllable-like units.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a user interface comprising an edit box in which a user may enter the text of the word and a list box that displays words for which an acoustic description has been previously added to the speech recognition lexicon.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
        receiving an indication that a user has selected a word
            in the list box;
        retrieving the added acoustic description of the word
            from the speech recognition lexicon; and
        converting the retrieved acoustic description into an
            audible signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:
        receiving text of a word for which a phonetic
            description is to be added to a speech recognition
            lexicon;
        receiving a representation of a speech signal produced
            by a person pronouncing the word;
        converting the text of the word into a text-based
            phonetic description of the word;

generating a speech-based phonetic description of the word from the representation of the speech signal without using the text of the word; and

selecting a phonetic description of the word to add to the speech recognition lexicon by selecting between the text-based phonetic description and the speech-based phonetic description based in part on the correspondence between each phonetic description and the representation of the speech signal.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein generating a speech-based phonetic description comprises:

generating a plurality of possible phonetic descriptions;

using at least one model to score each possible phonetic description; and

selecting the possible phonetic description with the highest score as the speech-based phonetic description.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein using at least one model comprises using an acoustic model and a language model.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein using a language model comprises using a language model that is based on syllable-like units.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein each syllable-like unit comprises a sequence of phonemes and wherein using an acoustic model to score a possible phonetic description comprises generating acoustic model scores for each

of the phonemes in a syllable-like unit and summing the acoustic model scores of the phonemes to generate an acoustic model score for the syllable-like unit.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein:

converting the text of the word into a text-based phonetic description further comprises generating a score for the text-based phonetic description based on the correspondence between the text-based phonetic description and the representation of the speech signal;

generating a speech-based phonetic description further comprises generating a score for the speech-based phonetic description based on the correspondence between the speech-based phonetic description and the representation of the speech signal; and

selecting between the text-based phonetic description and the speech-based phonetic description comprises selecting the phonetic description with the highest score.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the steps further comprise:

receiving an instruction to generate an audible pronunciation of a phonetic description previously added to the speech recognition lexicon;

retrieving the added phonetic description from the speech recognition lexicon; and

causing an audible pronunciation to be generated based on the retrieved phonetic description.

19. (Original) A speech recognition system having a language model generated through a process comprising:

breaking each word in a dictionary into syllable-like
units;

for each word, grouping the syllable-like units of the
word into n-grams;

counting the total number of n-gram occurrences in the
dictionary; and

for each n-gram, counting the number of occurrences of
the n-gram in the dictionary and dividing this
count by the total number of n-gram occurrences to
form a language model probability for the n-gram.

20.(Original) The speech recognition system of claim 19 wherein
breaking each word into syllable-like units comprises breaking
the words by preferring syllable-like units that occur more
frequently in the dictionary over syllable-like units that occur
less frequently.

21.(Original) The speech recognition system of claim 20 wherein
breaking each word further comprises updating the frequencies of
the syllable-like units into which the word is broken.